



Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300 • Columbia, MD 21046

Minutes of the December 20, 2017 Meeting

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, First Floor-Room 1 Columbia, MD 21046

Attendance:

Appointed Members: Jacqueline Scott, Sheriff Bill McMahon, Chief Gary Gardner, Colleen McGuinn, Suellen Seigel, Karen Butler, Kelly Ruby, Andrea Raid, Major Mary Levy, Captain Cory Zirk, Jennifer Pollitt Hill, Sheriff Bill McMahon, Ayesha Holmes, Leslie Rogers Iampieri, Janet Paul, Sara Cochran, Leslie Petak and Mark Breaux.

Department of Community Resources and Services Staff: Cheryl Mattis, Sidney Ford and Cara Baumgartner.

Guests: Kathy Jordan, Charlee Borg, Det. Josh Mouton, Lt. Eric Kruhm, Sgt. Jim Daly, Dawn Tinker, and Susan Schneider.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by Jacqueline R. Scott, Chair

Agenda:

- **Jacqueline Scott welcomed everyone to the inaugural Human Trafficking Prevention Coordination Council meeting**
- **Introducing Sidney Ford, the Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator**
 - Founded YANA (You Are Never Alone) to help sexually exploited, victimized women and children. Worked with the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office in collaboration with victim specialists. Founded victim services subcommittee for the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force. Most recently worked at JHCP Odenton as a psychotherapist.
 - Attendees went around the room and introduced themselves and gave a bit of information about their organization.
- **Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinating Council**
 - Was formed because of trends showing the problem is growing in Howard County. It will be the coordinating body to make recommendations to the County Executive and be a centralized place to tie all the County partners together. Sidney Ford will coordinate internally and connect to external organizations. She will also work with others to apply for grant funding and work on various policies/legislative initiatives to expand or bring services into Howard County.
 - Ground rules for Council meetings: meetings will be open, meeting agenda and minutes will be posted on the Howard County website (once a section is built) and anyone is free to attend the meetings. There may be times where closed meetings are needed due to the sensitive nature of topics.
 - Rules for confidentiality were discussed. There was an informal consensus in the room that people have experience with confidentiality through their

work and that discussing issues in generalities would suit the Council in most instances. Guidelines will be written up to codify confidentiality rules for the Council.

- The Council will look at all issues related to human trafficking. Both sexual and labor trafficking will be addressed. Currently, prohibitions against labor trafficking are included within extortion laws in Maryland. There are already some laws in Maryland which specifically address sex trafficking.
 - It was suggested that FIRN be offered a seat on the council. Also, it was noted that there is labor trafficking that will be missed unless there is someone able to speak the victim's language. FIRN would be of great assistance with non-English languages. FIRN has already been invited but will be contacted again.
 - There are also two seats open for survivors of human trafficking, two for the faith community and one for the community at large. All were encouraged to contact Sidney Ford with possible candidates.
- There are two committees under development. Attendees who want to join a committee were asked to contact Sidney Ford.
 - Program Partnerships & Funding (name/focus may change over time) -- committee members will identify services – and gaps in service – that require additional resource support. They will look at what is currently in place for HT victims and survivors in Howard County, and see what programs and services might be expanded to increase the capacity of the County's helping organizations (and the County itself) to better serve HT survivors. State, regional, national and international programs will also be explored.
 - Members of the Public Education committee will focus their efforts on bringing together a regional event to be held in Fall 2018, that will increase awareness of sexual and labor trafficking in Howard County residents, organizations and businesses, and the public at large. Many people incorrectly believe that the issue happens "somewhere else," such as, "in other countries." Others think that victims are only brought in via the County's interstate highways (I-70, I-95). Part of the work of the committee will be to help everyone understand that victims of human trafficking have been discovered and assisted for years in this area and the surrounding region, and that the crime does not require movement from place to place, only that "something of value" be gained from the sexual or labor exploitation of victims.
- **An aggressive, 10-month timeline**
 - Full body will meet once a month
 - Howard County Government webpage will have a section for Human Trafficking Prevention. The minutes, agendas, list of board members, reports, data etc. will be stored there. Any existing data and reports should be sent to Sidney Ford.
 - It was proposed and accepted that the next meeting have time to go over what the last taskforce accomplished.

- It was requested that the Fire Department have a representative at the council. An invite will be sent. It was reiterated again that if there are recommendations for the remaining spots, to please contact Sidney Ford.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am by Chair Jacqueline Scott.

Next meeting: January 17, 2018 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Ascend One Building - 8930 Stanford Boulevard Columbia MD 21046 – Barton Room

Please use main entrance and the security guard will direct you to the room.

Minutes submitted by Cara Baumgartner